

Borough of Haslingden



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year ending

31st December, 1950

and

THE REPORT

of the

Chief Sanitary Inspector

for the year ending

31st December, 1950



WITH THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH'S
COMPLIMENTS

Public Health Offices,
Blackburn Road,
Haslingden

Borough of Haslingden



ANNUAL REPORT

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HEALTH COMMITTEE

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR (ex-officio),

Councillor J. Ratcliffe, J.P. (To May, 1950).

Alderman F. Slater, J.P. (From May, 1950).

ALDERMAN T. BROWN (Chairman)

ALDERMAN W. BOYSON, J.P. (Vice-Chairman).

Councillor W. H. J. Cowpe

Councillor T. Dewhurst

Councillor J. Entwistle

*Councillor H. Gorton

Councillor J. Hanson

Councillor J. W. Holgate

Councillor E. Russell

Councillor W. J. Everett, C.C.

*Councillor J. Illingworth

Councillor S. Nuttall

Councillor J. Ratcliffe

†Councillor G. H. Slater

†Alderman T. F. Haworth

* Member of Committee to May, 1950.

† Member of Committee from May, 1950.

STAFF

Town Clerk:

L. M. BURTON

Medical Officer of Health:

C. H. T. WADE, M.D., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector:

W. DAWSON, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., A.M.Inst.P.C.

Public Health Clerks:

H. Camm

E. Law (Miss)



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1st September, 1951.

To the Mayor and Members of the
Haslingden Borough Council.

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year, 1950, on the health and sanitary conditions in the district.

The district has remained free from any serious outbreak of infectious disease. There has been no undue incidence of illness or of deaths from particular causes.

Respiratory tuberculosis caused five deaths and non-respiratory tuberculosis one death. It should be possible in Haslingden to eliminate this infectious disease and efforts are being made to this end. Bad housing is a contributory cause and it is essential to try and increase the present rate of building new houses.

I wish to thank Members of the Council and Officers for their valued help and co-operation during the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

C. H. T. WADE,

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
Blackburn Road,
HASLINGDEN.

Section A
**Statistics
and
Social Conditions.**

Section A.—General Summary

The 1951 census gave an actual population figure of 14,505 compared with the Registrar General's mid 1950 estimate of 14,670.

The birth rate was again 13.8 the actual number of births being 202. A comparability factor of 1.08 was given by the Registrar General and this increases the birth rate to 14.9. The birth rate for England and Wales was 15.8

The crude death rate showed a slight increase as compared with 1949 from 17.6 to 17.7. A comparability factor of 0.87 was given by the Registrar General and reduces the rate to 15.4. The death rate for England and Wales was 11.6.

There was again a drop in the infant death rate from 45 to 40 although this is still above the national rate of 29.8. Of the eight infant deaths, three were due to prematurity and two to congenital defects.

For the third year in succession there were no maternal deaths.

The death rate from pulmonary tuberculosis was somewhat higher at 0.34 per thousand of the population.

There was a number of measles and whooping cough cases 162 and 89 respectively. Scarlet fever cases were larger in number than of recent years, 31 being notified. Diphtheria and acute poliomyelitis were again absent from the district.

During the year 56 milk samples were submitted for examination for tubercle bacilli and as five of these were positive it is obviously most important to boil all raw milk before use, particularly as the milk may have been dangerous for some weeks due to the time taken for biological examination. Of the 64 samples taken for bacteriological examination (Methylene Blue Test) five failed to satisfy the standard required in a graded milk.

With regard to water supply a survey is being made of houses whose only supply is from springs and wells. During the year two such houses were coupled to the public mains.

During the year 30 permanent houses were completed by the Corporation and five by other persons. At the end of December, 1950, 124 houses were in progress and 28 flats and 14 houses were under consideration. The number of sub-standard houses in the Borough is virtually the same as last year. The number of applicants on the waiting list for Council Houses at the end of 1950 was 566.

From a health point of view housing is the most important problem and the need in Haslingden is not only to deal with priority applicants but to provide for a much larger section of the population who are inadequately housed by reason of the exceptionally low standard of obsolete property.

STATISTICS.

Area in acres	8,195
Population (Census, 1931)	16,639
Registrar-General's estimate of mid-year population for 1950	14,670
Number of inhabited houses (Census, 1931)	4,856
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1950, according to Rate Books)	5,267
Rateable Value	£87,805
Sum represented by a penny rate	£346

Population:

The Registrar-General's estimate of the mid-year population for 1950 shows an increase of 70 in the total population, on 1949. It is now estimated as being 14,670. The 1951 census population was 14,505.

Live Births:

	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total
Male	111	2	113
Female	83	6	89
	<hr/> 194	<hr/> 8	<hr/> 202

Still Births:

Male	3	...	3
Female	2	...	2
	<hr/> 5	<hr/> ...	<hr/> 5

Total Registered Births for 1950 ... 207

Total Registered Births for 1949 ... 211

Live Birth Rate:

For year 1950	13.8
For year 1949	13.8
For 5 years average 1945-1949	16.0
Decrease in 1950 on 1949	Nil
Decrease in 1950 on 5 years average	2.2

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total births for 1950:

(Live and Still Births)	24
--------------------------------	----

Live Birth Rate for England and Wales for 1950 ... 15.8

Total Registered Deaths:

	Male	Female	Total
For 1950	132	128	260
For 1949	122	135	257

Crude Death Rate:

For 1950	17.7
For 1949	17.6
For 5 years average 1945-1949	16.3
Increase in 1950 on 1949	0.1
Increase in 1950 on 5 years average	1.4

Corrected death rate (Comparability factor 0.87) ... 15.4

Crude Death Rate for England and Wales for 1950 11.6

Total Maternal Deaths in 1950 Nil

Total Maternal Deaths in 1949 Nil

Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births:

For 1950	Nil
For 1949	Nil
For 5 years average 1945-1949	2.64
Decrease in 1950 on 1949	Nil
Decrease in 1950 on 5 years average	2.64

Total Maternal Mortality Rate (Live and Still Births):

For year 1950	Nil
For year 1949	Nil
For 5 years average 1945-1949	2.56
Decrease in 1950 on 1949	Nil
Decrease in 1950 on 5 years average	2.56

Total Deaths of Infants under 1 year :

For 1950 :

	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total
Male	6	...	6
Female	2	...	2
	<hr/> 8	<hr/> ...	<hr/> 8

For 1949 :

Male	6	...	6
Female	3	...	3
	<hr/> 9	<hr/> ...	<hr/> 9

Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 Live Births :

For year 1950	40
For year 1949	45
For 5 years average 1945-1949	52
Decrease in 1950 on 1949	5
Decrease in 1950 on 5 years average	12

Infantile Death Rate for England and Wales for 1950 29.8

Death Rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis :

For year 1950	0.34
For year 1949	0.14
For 5 years average 1945-1949	0.16
Increase in 1950 on 1949	0.20
Increase in 1950 on 5 years average	0.18

Death from Measles (all ages) :

Year 1950	Nil
Year 1949	Nil

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) :

Year 1950	Nil
Year 1949	Nil

Deaths from Diphtheria (all ages) Not Immunised :

Year 1950	Nil
Year 1949	Nil

Deaths from Diphtheria (all ages) Immunised :

Year 1950	Nil
Year 1949	Nil

As in previous years heart disease is again responsible for the greatest number of deaths, 118 deaths being certified as due to this cause. Cancer of the lung appears to be on the increase generally, and an enquiry is being made about the cause of this. In Haslingden there were five cases, all males.

Details of the principal causes of death during 1950 are given in Table I.

TABLE I.
PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1950.

Causes of Death.	Number of Deaths
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	—
Meningococcal Infections	—
Scarlet Fever	—
Whooping Cough	—
Diphtheria	—
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	5
Other forms of tuberculosis	1
Syphilitic diseases	—
Influenza	—
Measles	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—
Cancer, malignant disease, all forms	34
Diabetes	1
Other disease of the circulatory system	2
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	38
Heart Disease	118
Bronchitis	11
Pneumonia (all forms)	6
Other respiratory diseases	1
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	4
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	3
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—
Congenital malformations	2
Suicide	—
Motor vehicle accidents	—
Homicide and operations of war	—
All other accidents	4
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	23
Nephritis and nephrosis	6

Section B

**General Provision
of
Health Services**

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

Under the National Health Service Act the County Council is responsible for the local health services.

The examination of pathological specimens and milk and water samples is undertaken without charge by the Public Health Laboratory at Monsall Hospital, Manchester.

The following matters are the responsibility of the Borough Council:— The control of infectious disease; provision of suitable water supplies; control of cleansing and disposal of refuse; inspection of all food and food preparing premises; sampling of foodstuffs (milk, ice-cream, etc.) for bacteriological examination; sanitary accommodation to houses, factories, shops and other premises; inspection of houses with regard to fitness for human habitation; nuisances and defects; rodent control; offensive trades; smoke abatement; and many other matters concerned with environmental health.

Hospital facilities are now under the Regional Board and Management Committees and patients are admitted without regard to local boundaries.

Ambulance, District Nursing, Midwifery and Maternity and Child Welfare Services are provided by the County Council and administered under the Divisional Health Service Scheme.

Section C

**Prevalence of and Control over
Infectious and other Diseases**

TABLE II.
NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) RECEIVED DURING
THE YEAR 1950.

“Notifiable” Diseases	Total Cases Notified															Total Deaths	Hospital		
	Total Cases at all Ages	Years															Total cases removed to Hospital from district	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to district	
		Un-der 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over					
Scarlet Fever	31	...	1	1	3	5	13	7	...	...	1	...	...	20	...
Whooping Cough	89	6	6	15	17	8	31	1	...	1	...	3	1	9	...				
Acute Primary Pneumonia	4	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	162	8	13	27	33	28	46	4	2	1	...	...	...	3	...	
Dysentery	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	1	...
Puerperal Pyrexia...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Totals...	291	15	20	43	53	41	92	13	3	5	2	3	1	35	...				

TABLE III.

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1950.

		MONTH												Dec	Total
		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec		
"Notifiable" Diseases															
Scarlet fever	...	3	5	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	...	9	5	31	
Whooping Cough	...	1	...	...	...	...	11	17	7	9	14	18	12	89	
Acute Primary Pneumonia	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	4	17
Measles	...	...	...	...	1	17	58	34	6	1	6	3	36	162	
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	3	
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	
Totals	...	4	6	1	3	19	71	54	14	15	20	30	54	291	

Infectious Disease :

Cases of Infectious Disease are treated without charge at the infectious disease hospital and similarly pathological examinations are made without charge at the Public Health Laboratory, Mousall Hospital, Manchester.

The National Health Service Act requires that copies of all notifications of infectious disease must be forwarded without delay to the County Medical Officer. In practice these notifications are sent to the Divisional Medical Officer so that he may correlate action within the health division and to enable the Divisional Committee to gain a regular knowledge of the incidence of infectious disease throughout their area.

Diphtheria immunisation is now the responsibility of the County Council but close co-operation between the Borough Council and the County Council is maintained particularly for propaganda purposes.

Table IV shows the number of cases of infectious diseases treated in hospital during 1950.

TABLE IV.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE TREATED IN HOSPITAL DURING 1950.

Cases	Disease					
	Scarlet fever	Whoop'g Cough	Measles	Dysentery	Puerp'ral Pyrexia	Ophthal. Neonat'm
In Hospital at beginning of year ...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Admitted during the year ...	20	9	3	1	1	1
Discharged during the year ...	20	9	3	1	1	1
Died in Hospital ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Remaining in Hospital at end of year	1	...	...	...	...	...

Bacteriological and Pathological Examinations:

Table V shows the results of bacteriological examinations made during the year.

TABLE V.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS DURING 1950.

Particulars of Examination	Positive	Negative	Total
Diphtheria - Throat Swabs ...	...	5	5
Other Swabs ...	...	1	1
Virulence Tests	...	...	...
Other Examinations—			
Haemolytic Streptococci	3	2	5
Dysentery	2	8	10

Tuberculosis:

Each case of tuberculosis is visited by the Tuberculosis Health visitor of the Lancashire County Council as soon as possible after receipt of notification. Sixty-five cases were visited during the year, the number of visits paid being 317. Where desirable, Sanatorium or Hospital treatment is arranged for after consultation between the Tuberculosis Officer and the Medical Practitioner concerned.

At the beginning of the year there were 81 cases of tuberculosis on the register, 19 cases were added and nine cases taken off the register, leaving a total of 91 cases on the register at the end of the year. The following table gives an analysis of the cases on the register during the year.

TABLE VI.
PARTICULARS OF CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS ON THE REGISTER DURING 1950.

	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Total Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Number of Cases of tuberculosis on the Register at the commencement of the year. ...	21	12	33	29	19	48	50	31	81
Number of Cases added to the register during the year	2	9	11	4	4	8	6	13	19
Number of Cases of tuberculosis removed from the register during the year on account of (a) having died	4	...	4	2	...	2	6	...	6
(b) having left the district ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(c) having recovered ... ..	...	...	...	1	1	2	1	1	2
(d) diagnosis of tuberculosis not being confirmed ... ..	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	1
Number of Cases remaining on the register at the end of the year	19	20	39	30	22	52	49	42	91

Table VII gives the age of the cases of tuberculosis notified and deaths from the disease during 1950.

TABLE VII.
TUBERCULOSIS.
NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING
THE YEAR 1950.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Years								
0-1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1-5	...	...	2	1	..	...	1	.
5-10	...	1	2	1	...	...	...	...
10-15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15-20	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
20-25	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
25-35	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	...
35-45	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
45-65	1	1	...	...	4	...	...	...
65 and upwards	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	2	9	4	4	4	1	1	...
	11		8		5		1	

N.B. Primary notifications only included in the above table.

The examination of sputum for the presence of tubercle bacilli is carried out at the Blackburn Royal Infirmary. Of 65 such specimens examined during 1950, eight were positive and 57 negative.

In no instance has there been any wilful neglect or refusal to notify; the notification of tuberculosis in this district being satisfactory.

There does not appear to be any excessive incidence of, or mortality from tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the area.

It has not been necessary to take action during the year under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under the Public Health Acts relating to the compulsory removal to a hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

Table VIII gives particulars of disinfection during 1950.

TABLE VIII.
DISINFECTION DURING 1950.

Disease etc	Number of Rooms	Number of Articles
Tuberculosis ..	11	111
Other Causes ...	5	47

(Number of houses 16)

Room fumigation for diseases other than tuberculosis and smallpox is no longer recommended. Experience has shown that thorough cleansing with soap and water and disinfectant together with efficient ventilation of the rooms is adequate.

Infection, in the cases of diseases like scarlet fever and diphtheria, is nearly always due to personal contact or to the infection of food and drink.

Section D

Sanitary Circumstances

Borough of Haslingden

Public Health Offices,
Blackburn Road,
Haslingden.
1st September, 1951.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration my fourth Annual Report on sanitary conditions in the area and progress recorded in 1950. The report necessarily covers a wide range of subjects and supplies considerable statistical information, some of which may not be of interest to every reader, therefore I have decided to comment, in this introductory letter, on matters which have been most prominent during the year.

Housing still remains one of the major problems in this, as in many other districts, and will not be solved until sufficient new houses have been erected to meet the actual shortage and to replace unfit dwellings. Some considerable progress has been made with regard to meeting the deficiency in actual numbers of houses, but little with regard to the demolition or closing of unfit houses. It is hoped that in the near future it will be found possible to rehouse, in Council Houses, tenants from some of the worst of the unfit houses and demolish or permanently close the dwellings vacated. A small annual allocation of new houses for this purpose would allow a start to be made in the task of removing the old and unfit dwellings still used for human habitation. With regard to repair of existing houses, progress is being made and this is outlined statistically on a later page. There are many obstacles in the way of rapid repair or reconditioning of dwellinghouses, but one hoped that the financial assistance outlined in the Housing Act, 1949, which was designed to assist owners to improve existing houses, would have made some material contribution to better housing. It is very disappointing to have to record that the Act, at any rate as regards this district, has not been by any means the success that was expected.

The survey of all private water supplies in the Borough has been commenced and the source and condition of the water to every house served by such supply is being recorded. The houses are being classified in groups and the observations of the Water Board are being sought as to the practicability of furnishing a towns supply. Conditions on land which acts as gathering grounds for private water supplies have changed so much in the last few years that the need for the survey is imperative as a public health precaution. During the year 44 samples were taken from private supplies for laboratory examination.

Byelaws for the clean handling of foodstuffs came into operation in July and a copy of the byelaws and an explanatory letter was sent to every food handler in the Borough. As there are 230 premises in the district where food is stored, sold or prepared for sale, the problem of supervision is one of some magnitude and the present staff cannot carry out the frequent inspections that are desirable to ensure compliance with the byelaws and other food legislation. Co-operation with the food traders is at a high level, both individually and with regard to Trader's Associations, and it is hoped that a series of talks and lectures for food traders will be organised during the next year.

My remarks have dealt chiefly with housing, water and food, all of which are essential to the enjoyment of a healthy life. Many other matters of almost equal importance are dealt with in the following pages, a perusal of which may be of some interest and value to the reader.

My appreciation and thanks are due to all Members and Officials of the Council for their interest, encouragement and valuable assistance, and to the staff for their loyal co-operation in all the work of the Department.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. DAWSON,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Water :

The water supply of Haslingden is obtained mainly from the Irwell Valley Water Board, partly from the Accrington and District Gas and Water Board and partly from springs and wells. Of the 5,267 inhabited houses on the rate books at the end of 1950, approximately 4,800 houses are supplied by the Irwell Valley Water Board and the Accrington and District Gas and Water Board, whilst approximately 450 houses obtain their supply from springs and wells. The Irwell Valley Water Board supply 88.0 per cent of the houses, the Accrington and District Gas and Water Board 3.6 per cent and private supplies 8.4 per cent. All the water supplied by the Irwell Valley Water Board and by the Accrington and District Gas and Water Board is delivered direct to the consumer, neither of these authorities delivering water by stand pipe.

Of the 5,267 houses in the Area approximately 46 per cent are fitted with their own baths.

Extensions of 651 yards to the existing mains of the Irwell Valley Water Board were laid during the year, for the purposes of new housing development and new services to existing properties.

The bulk of the water supplied in this area is now treated with lime for plumbo-solvency, and the results of this treatment are proving satisfactory.

Forty-three bacteriological examinations of the raw water were made. Ninety-one bacteriological and 20 chemical analyses of the treated water going into supply were made in 1950, and found to be mainly satisfactory.

Lime treatment of the water is applied at the reservoirs.

All water is chlorinated at the source.

Two existing houses which had unsatisfactory private supplies, were coupled for the first time to the public mains. A survey of all houses supplied from private sources was commenced near the end of the year. The intention is to ascertain the adequacy and wholesomeness of the supplies in question and the possibility of extension to a public mains supply.

Drainage and Sewerage:

The sewage disposal works are under the control of a Joint Board and deal with the sewage of the three Rossendale Valley towns, Bacup, Haslingden and Rawtenstall. The plant is situated at the lowest point in the area, and the method of treatment is precipitation and filtration with outfall into the River Irwell.

There are still a number of houses not connected to public sewers, but these are mostly in outlying districts and farms.

Sanitary Accommodation:

The figures below show the closet accommodation of the Borough at the end of the year:—

1. Number of pail closets	146
2. Number of waste-water closets	2304
3. Number of fresh-water closets	2490
4. Number of dry ashpits (excluding middens)	9
5. Number of movable ashbins	5069

One hundred and forty-six pail closets are still in use. These are sited all over the Borough, and the work of conversion is being held up owing to the absence of suitable sewers or the lack of town's water supply, in many cases the head of water not being sufficient to feed the flushing cisterns of fresh-water closets.

Table IX shows the particulars of conversions during 1950

**TABLE IX.
CONVERSIONS.**

No. of pail closets	{ To fresh w.c's. To waste w.c's.	Nil Nil
No. of waste w.c's. to fresh w.c's.		6
No. of trough closets to fresh w.c's.		Nil
No. of houses at which movable ashbins have been substituted for fixed receptacles		Nil

Public Cleansing :

The vehicles used for cleansing are as follows:— Two freighters are used entirely on collection of household refuse. One freighter is used for the collection of waste food, and the collection of night-soil (in a special tank fitted on the vehicle).

Household refuse is collected bi-weekly and night-soil weekly. During the year all household refuse has been disposed of by controlled tipping at Meadow Well and night-soil is discharged to the sewer by means of a special night-soil chute.

The tipping space at Meadow Well is coming within sight of completion and the Health Committee have had under consideration a new site at South Shore. This has met with objections from residents and final decisions have yet to be made.

The vehicles are garaged at the Market Garage where heating is installed. Arrangements for drying the wet clothes of workmen have not proved entirely satisfactory and it is anticipated that next year a small drying room will be erected specially for this purpose.

The refuse collection wagons have dealt with the following material during the year:—

	Loads
Ashbin refuse	2483
Waste food	105
Nightsoil	161
Total	<u>2749</u>

The following shows particulars of the materials dealt with on the Meadow Well Tip:—

	Loads
Loads tipped by refuse wagons	2483
Sweepings from Borough Surveyor's Department	114
Loads tipped by private traders	1618
Total	<u>4215</u>

SALVAGE.

Collection of waste paper has not been carried out in 1950, but towards the end of the year the position was reviewed by the Health Committee and it was decided to re-commence collection in the spring of 1951.

Salvage was collected and sold as follows:—

	Tons	Cwts.
Paper	7	9
Rags		6
Metals	8	7
Waste food	121	5
Total weight ...	<u>137</u>	<u>7</u>

Gross Value:— £410. 18s. 5d.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA :

Details of the inspection work carried out during 1950, are shown in Table X.

TABLE X.

INSPECTIONS MADE DURING THE YEAR.

Public Health Acts...	515
Meat and Food Inspections:—	
Slaughter-houses ...	18
Butchers' shops...	17
Other food preparing places ...	24
Market...	174
Farms...	46
Milk Samples ...	64
Ice-Cream Premises ...	25
Dairies ...	4
L.C.C. (Rivers Board and General Powers)	
Act, 1938 ...	108
Restaurant Kitchens ...	22
Common Lodging-houses ...	3
Infectious disease and disinfection ...	90
Shops Act ...	82
Water Samples ...	51
Rodent Control ...	53
Work completed...	500
Smoke observations ...	10
Water supply ...	366
Outworkers ...	15
Offensive Trades ...	2
Schools ...	11
Factory and Workshops ...	75
Others ...	526
	<hr/>
	3001

In Table XI are given particulars of:—

- (a) Notices served and complied with;
- (b) Defects and nuisances found and remedied.

TABLE XI.

(a) NOTICES.

	Served.	Complied with
Formal notices	2	2
Informal notices	254	209

(b) NUISANCES AND DEFECTS.

	Discovered	Abated
Dwelling-houses :		
Dampness	34	23
Insufficient ashbins	4	4
Defective ashbins	354	328
Insanitary pail closets	12	12
Defective waste water closets	191	188
Defective fresh water closets	9	9
Defective drains... ..	100	97
Chimneys	2	2
Roofs	14	10
Eaves-gutters	20	17
Rain-water pipes	5	3
Pointing	2	1
Defective plaster	20	12
„ fire range	4	2
„ windows	8	2
„ doors	5	4
„ floors	3	2
Others	18	15
Totals	805	731

Smoke Abatement :

Ten routine observations of the emission of smoke from mill chimneys were taken during the year, and in none of these cases did the emission of dense smoke exceed the time limit of two minutes per half hour.

Swimming Baths :

The Corporation Swimming Baths provide one plunge bath, eight slipper baths and two medicinal (Zotofoam) baths.

The water in the plunge bath is treated by filtration, chlorination and aeration under pressure, and is chemically treated by sulphate of alumina and soda. The water is tested daily for pH value, for residual chlorine and for temperature. The pool capacity is approximately 76,000 gallons and there is complete turnover of the water each $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours. Six bacteriological samples of water were taken by the Health Department, three were satisfactory and three unsatisfactory. Remedial measures were carried out.

Eradication of Bed Bugs :

No cases had to be dealt with during the year. Four flea infested houses were disinfested by means of sulphur candles and D.D.T. Spray.

Camp Sites :

There have been no licenses issued by the local authority and no areas are used for camping purposes.

Schools :

The sanitary conditions in the schools are fairly satisfactory. All schools are supplied with water from the town's mains.

Rodent Control :

In March and September routine treatment of the Town's sewers for destroying rats was carried out. One hundred and sixty-five baits were laid and 45 complete takes were registered. The highest incidence of infestation is around the Town Centre.

During the year 17 private premises were dealt with for rodent infestation, all cases being of a minor character.

Including sewer treatment work and inspection and treatment of private premises 188 visits were made in 1950. This figure does not include many routine inspections for the presence of rodents.

Offensive Trades:

There is one offensive trade carried on within the Borough, viz: soap boiling. The premises receive periodic inspection.

Factories Act, 1937:

The following table shows inspections made for the purpose of provisions as to health, including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector.

TABLE XII

Premises	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories with mechanical power...	54	...	—
Factories without mechanical power	21	3	—
Other premises under the Act : (including works of building and engineering construction, but not outworkers premises)	—	—	—
Total	75	3	—

The following table gives the number of defects found and remedied during the year.

TABLE XIII.

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Refer'd by H.M. Inspector	Numb'r of Prosecutions.
Want of cleanliness	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature ...	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors ...	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences :				
Insufficient	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective ..	4	1	3	—
Not separate for sexes... ..	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	5	5	—	—
Total	9	6	3	—

There are eight outworkers on the register. All were inspected during the year.

Shops and Offices :

Eighty-two routine visits and inspections were made, during the year, of shops in the district. No action was found necessary with regard to offices.

Common Lodging-houses :

There are two common-lodging-houses registered in the Borough, both of which are situated in Town Ward. The premises receive periodic inspection.

Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1928 :

There are no premises in the town where rag flock is manufactured, and so far as is known none is being sold or used.

Section E

Housing

Housing conditions:

The position with regard to substandard houses is much the same as reported last year.

The repair to existing houses is still presenting some difficulty due partly to shortages of materials and labour, partly to the economic problem of low rent and high repair costs, and in some instances, due to the completely worn out condition of the structures making repair almost an impossibility. At the end of 1950 there were 566 applicants on the register for Council Houses.

Statistics:

Number of new houses erected during the year:—			
	Prefabricated Houses		Traditional
	Temporary	Permanent	Permanent Houses
(a) By Local Authority	—	—	30
(b) By other Local Authorities	—	—	—
(c) By other bodies or persons	—	—	5
Totals ...	—	—	35

Houses under construction at end of December, 1950	124
Houses under consideration at end of December, 1950	14
Flats under consideration at end of December, 1950	28

Housing Act, 1936—Overcrowding:

When calculated by the number of houses in the Borough (5,267) and the estimated population (14,670) overcrowding would seem to be non-existent, as an average of only 2.78 persons per house is shown. The uneven

occupation of houses, many four and six roomed houses having only one occupant, leads to overcrowding in others. Without a re-survey it is impossible to state the exact position. Building of "old persons" houses may help to abate overcrowding by releasing larger houses for families.

1. Inspection of dwellinghouses during the year:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	340
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	515
(2) (a) Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932	—
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	—
(3) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	2
(4) Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	90

2. Remedy of defects during the year:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	64
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners	1
(b) By local authority in default of owners	—

- (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :
- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 1
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—
 - (a) By owners 1
 - (b) By local authority in default of owners —
- (c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :
- (1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... —
 - (2) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders —
- (d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :
- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made —
 - (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit —
4. Number of houses demolished without service of Demolition Orders —
5. Housing Act, 1949 :
- Four schemes were submitted by private individuals under this Act, affecting four houses, but none were approved for grant.

Section F

**Inspection and
Supervision of Food**

Milk:

During the year 50 inspections were made at farms and dairies in the Borough. Many of the visits were in connection with water supplies, a matter now receiving the close attention it deserves.

Samples were taken of different sources of water supply at four of the farms, and schemes are envisaged or in preparation at several farms in the Borough.

Fifty-six samples were taken of milk produced and retailed by farmers in this locality. All were submitted for examination for tubercle bacilli and for the Methylene Blue test.

Five gave positive results and were reported to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for action under the Tuberculosis Order. Five of the samples failed to satisfy the Methylene Blue test, whilst 51 were satisfactory.

At 31st December there were 39 Distributors of milk on the register, in addition to farmers retailing their own milk.

Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1949 (Raw Milk) (Pasteurised and Sterilized Milk).

The following held licenses under the Special Designation Regulations at the end of December, 1950.

38 Dealers' Licences for Sterilized Milk.

3 Dealers' Licences for T.T. Milk.

1 Supplementary licence for Pasteurised Milk.

1 Supplementary licence for T.T. Milk.

Examination of Milk Supplies:

Particulars of the bacteriological examination of milk during 1950, are given in Table XIV.

TABLE XIV.
BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK
DURING 1950.

Particulars of Examination	No. of Samples					No. of Farms
	Total	Negative	Positive	Satisfactory	Not-Satisfactory	
Biological for Tuberculosis	56	51	5	—	—	56
Methylene Blue	64	—	—	59	5	56
Phosphatase	8	—	—	8	—	—
Turbidity	2	—	—	2	—	—

Inspection of Meat and Other Food:

Regular inspections are made at retailers shops, including butchers shops, where foodstuffs are stored, exposed for sale or in course of preparation for sale. The Market is visited each Market Day i.e. Tuesday and Friday. The number of visits paid for the purpose of meat and food inspection during the year was 215.

During the year 33 pigs (generally known as "cottagers" pigs) were inspected. In all cases permits to slaughter had been received. In three instances it was necessary to condemn some part or organ. The percentage affected with tuberculosis was 9.1.

Food Poisoning :

No cases of food poisoning or suspected food poisoning have been reported during the year.

Food Condemned :

The following foodstuffs were condemned during 1950 as unfit for human consumption and have been dealt with as directed by the Government.

Tinned Meat	102 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
Tinned Fruit	407 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Tinned Vegetables	353 lbs.
Tinned Milk	180 lbs.
Tinned Soup	36 lbs.
Tinned Jam	21 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Tinned Fish	58 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
Tinned Treacle	10 lbs.
Tinned Syrup	2 lbs.
Chitterlings	224 lbs.
Dried Fruit	74 lbs.
Macaroni	105 lbs.
Cooking Fat	19 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Fresh Meat	543 lbs.
Tea	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Sugar	452 lbs.
Butter	58 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Sauces	13 lbs.
Total	2667 lbs.

Food Premises :

Byelaws made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 "for securing observance of Sanitary and Cleanly Practices and Conditions in connection with the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food and Sale of Food in the Open Air" were submitted by the Council, confirmed by the Ministry of Food on 31st May, 1950, and came into operation on the 10th July, 1950.

A copy of the Byelaws and an explanatory letter asking for co-operation in the cleanly handling of food were sent to 230 shopkeepers, canteen managers, hotel proprietors and others concerned with the handling of food-stuffs, in the autumn of 1950.

A notice for display in all places where foodstuffs are prepared was drawn up under the signature of the Medical Officer of Health and issued to all catering establishments in the Borough in October. Generally the response of food traders has been good.

During the year nine premises were registered for the sale of ice-cream. Altogether 30 premises are now on the register. Most of these purchase prepacked ice-cream and sell either in cartons or wrapped.

11 samples were submitted for bacteriological examination with the following results:—5 in grade 1: 1 in grade 2: 3 in grade 3: and 2 in grade 4.

Bakehouses:

There are 39 bakehouses on the register, some of these being very small businesses. There are still a few underground bakehouses.

Public Health (Shell Fish) Regulations, 1934:

No action was taken under these Regulations during the year.

Adulteration, Chemical and Bacteriological Examinations of Food:

The administration of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and Regulations concerned with adulteration are under the control of the Lancashire County Council and their Officers take samples in this district. The bacteriological examination of foodstuffs is dealt with by the Borough Council and samples are submitted for bacteriological examination to the Public Health Laboratory formerly at York Place and now at Monsall Hospital, Manchester.

